



State of Utah

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## UTAH STATE TAX COMMISSION

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## NEWS RELEASE

**April 15, 2008**

Contact: Charlie Roberts (801 297-3910 or 801 556-6318)

### **Warrant issued for Layton man Accused of State tax evasion**

A \$25,000 warrant has been issued for the arrest of a Layton man accused of committing six felonies for failure to file state income, tax evasion, and racketeering.

The Utah State Tax Commission has filed charges against Michael R. Park, age 50, Layton, for tax evasion and engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity, both second degree felonies. He has also been charged for failing to render proper state income tax returns in 2001, 2002, 2005, and 2006, all third degree felonies.

Park was one of three principals of A and P LLC, which was formed to purchase and operate four pizza restaurants in the Salt Lake City area. He operated the businesses and the other two owners, who live outside of Utah, were investors. The company, which was formed in 2001, is no longer in operation.

Investigators also allege that as a principal business owner, Park collected state withholding income taxes from employees as well as sales taxes from customers and then failed to remit them to the state in 2002 and 2003 as required by law.

The State claims Park improperly withheld and retained approximately \$60,535 in sales taxes and an additional \$6,564 in employee withholding income taxes. "It's an especially egregious crime for an employer to withhold income tax from its employees and then refuse to remit it to the state," said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the Tax Commission.

Investigators also say Park received income of about \$679,150 between 2001 and 2006 (excluding 2004) and estimates he evaded paying \$44,342 in state income tax.

"Failure to pay state income tax is a serious offense that the Tax Commission and Attorney General's office aggressively pursues and prosecutes," Roberts said.

Roberts pointed out that in Utah all state income taxes are directed to the education system. "When you fail to pay your fair share of state income taxes you are stealing from our children," he said.

The Tax Commission and the Utah Attorney General's office emphasize that individuals are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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